



PATENT

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

SUNDREHAGEN et al.

Serial No.: 09/417,226

Filed: October 13, 1999

For: ASSAY

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Group Art Unit: 1641

Examiner: J. Hines

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**AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action of October 10, 2000, in connection with the above-identified application. The period for response to this Official Action is set to expire on February 10, 2001, by the filing herewith of a petition for a one month extension of time and payment of the required fee.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 1 as follows.

1. (Twice amended) An assay method for the determination of transcobalamin II bound cobalamin in a body sample, comprising contacting a cell free sample of a body fluid with an immobilized or immobilizable specific binding ligand for transcobalamin II (TC II) or holo-transcobalamin II (holo-TC II), separating a ligand bound fraction from a non-ligand bound fraction, releasing cobalamin in the ligand bound fraction to provide a cobalamin containing liquid wherein the cobalamin concentration is at least 3 times the holo-TC II concentration in said cell free sample of body fluid, and determining the [cobalamin] cobalamin content in said cobalamin containing liquid.

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